

City Works

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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

CityWorks is published bi-monthly

Council Adopts 2006-2007 Budget

The Burlington City Council adopted the 2006-2007 fiscal year budget on June 6, 2006. The year-long process involves input from citizens, councilmembers in addition to significant information from City department heads and their management staff. The Council and staff continuously strive to provide high quality service to the citizens of Burlington. The budget is designed to keep Burlington an outstanding place to live, work and raise a family.

The fiscal year budget is adopted by ordinance and begins July 1 and ends June 30th. The budget is broken down in two major funds: the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund that includes all water and sewer operations such as repair and construction plants and facilities, water source protection, utility laboratories, and composting; and the General Fund, which includes funding for Police, Fire, Recreation and Parks, Public Works, Engineering and Traffic Control, Planning and Inspections, Legal, Finance, Human Resources, Health Services, Information Technology, and General Administration.

It was known early in the process that no new staff would be added. Tough decisions were made early in the process, such as eliminating staffing requests and major equipment purchases. Another realization was that this would be a two-year budget cycle for planning purposes in the General Fund. This year, as in years past, there seems to be unlimited needs, but very limited resources. This appears to be a similar challenge faced by most full-service cities of moderate size in our state. A seven-cent increase per one hundred dollar valuation of property is necessary to maintain financial stability and the level of service the City provides. The General Fund Budget is being driven by several key components:

- ◆ Investment in street system
- ◆ High energy costs
- ◆ Enhancement of salaries for sworn police officers, telecommunicators and firefighters
- ◆ Initiatives to manage the rising cost of healthcare
- ◆ General inflation

No new programs were added as a part of this budget, simply the continuation of existing services that our citizens expect. Additional funding for street improvements will allow for a much-improved street system. The need for adequate funding for Police and Fire personnel continues to be essential. The City is committed to public safety. A salary increase for sworn Police Officers, Firefighters and telecommunicators was recognized to retain and also protect our training dollars. Also, basic services such as sanitation pick up may need to be reduced if additional funds were not provided to offset skyrocketing fuel costs. Initiatives to control healthcare costs were also set into place.

The City of Burlington is committed to its citizens and providing the highest level of service at an affordable cost. Providing quality of life is the City's priority now and in the future.

**Interested in attending the City of Burlington's
Second Annual Government Academy? The Session will begin in the Fall. Contact
Jennifer Smith at 222-5076**

City Debuts New Outdoor Fitness Equipment

fitness

Need a Companion?



The City of Burlington debuted the latest trend in outdoor fitness Monday, June 5th at Burlington City Park. Topping the trends in walking and strength training, the Burlington Recreation & Parks Department takes on a new endeavor for outdoor fitness enthusiasts.

It is well known that fitness activities and an active lifestyle are essential to improved health, longevity and the enjoyment of life. Yet, today it has become the norm for sedentary lifestyles to take precedence. In Burlington, visitors to the City Park Walking and Fitness Track will now have the opportunity to exercise at twelve different

stations that are attractively located along the City Park Walking Track. Each station offers the opportunity to strengthen upper body, leg and back as well as opportunities to enhance cardiovascular fitness, agility and flexibility. By providing equipment such as this, people are able to make important fitness gains in an enjoyable outdoor environment.

The City of Burlington Department of Recreation & Parks in partnership with Alamance Regional Medical Center hosted a dedication ceremony of the new equipment on Monday, June 5th at 11:00am.

The Burlington Police Department's Animal Services Division is a full-time section of the department that is responsible for enforcement of City codes and North Carolina State Laws pertaining to animal issues. The Animal Services Division is also responsible for operation of the city / county animal shelter as well as the Pet Adoption Center. The division is committed to offering the finest service and prides itself on professionalism and a staff that is committed to public service. The division also maintains a standard that emphasizes compassion and humane treatment for all the animals received and housed at our facilities.

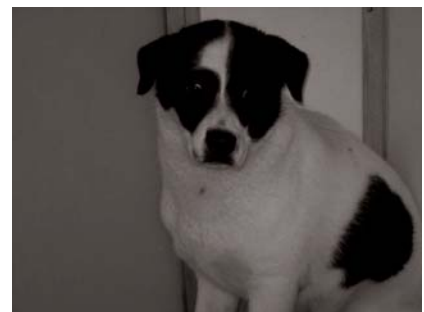
Pet Adoption Center Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. - Noon

Sunday & Holidays Closed

For more information call (336) 578-0343



The Pet Adoption Center is located on Stone Quarry Road, one mile past Cum Park Plaza off North Church. It serves the citizens of Alamance County and beyond including Greensboro, Reidsville, Asheboro, Mebane, and Hillsborough.

with their contacts with the Solid Waste Collection service. Findings for other departments are strongly positive and further examination of the data will offer more insights into service perceptions.

and the council to support our continuing efforts to help inform decision making in the community.

I hope you will find this update useful, and informative. We look forward to presenting our complete report later this year.

5. Overall Impressions

While it is too early to make specific observations or to categorize any observations as positive or negative, necessarily, it must be said that the overall data appear to indicate a widespread general satisfaction with and appreciation of Burlington's government, governmental officials, and general policy direction. It is an impressive set of data indicating satisfaction with service responsiveness, provision of amenities such as Recreation and Parks, and with overall policy goals. For example, 72.4% of those surveyed responded that they agree with the City's Policy on Employer Incentives.

Dr. Betty Morgan, Director
Elon Center for Public Affairs.

6. In the interest of full disclosure

It is fair to note that there are some categories of data which seem to indicate patterns of underutilization (52% of respondents have never used the City's web site for information or business reasons and 52.8% of respondents indicate that they would not want to pay water bills on line) some additional service provision to be considered for the future (for instance, 56.5% want electrical devices picked up as part of the waste collection service) and some communication challenges (71.5% of respondents report that the NEVER watch "At Your Service" and 54.1% of respondents are not aware of Advisory Board Opportunities). In any endeavor to identify problems or challenges, as the public perceives them, we intend to make these issues visible—in order to conscientiously undertake to address the problems. However, it must be said that overall, the positive findings far outweigh the problems identified and the benefits of collecting this "snapshot" of citizen satisfaction have been important to all concerned. While we are just beginning to scratch the surface of the information to be gained from the project, it is important to take note of the very impressive preliminary results and to encourage your office,